



Future Educator Honor Roll

2021

"Educators are training the next generation of artists, engineers, scientists and health professionals that will power our economy and enliven our communities. They truly make all other professions possible. We want all teachers and administrators—and especially our young educators—to know Coloradans support and appreciate their invaluable work."

-Dr. Angie Paccione
Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education



2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Aurora Public Schools - Pathways to Teaching

Joana Ramirez

Joana came to us from Mexico in August of 2018. She quickly demonstrated her academic strengths and moved into college-level courses in one year. She has been an outstanding student in our Pathways to Teaching, year 2 courses, CLDE and Special Education. She is ranked 29th out of 437 students at Hinkley High School. She has a 4.257 GPA. She brings the voice of a multilingual learner to the classroom and she will be an outstanding addition to any school that hired her. She is an advocate for ensuring our multilingual students get all the rigor and experience they deserve.

Cherry Creek School District - Future Educator Pathway



Jason Melvin

Elementary Education

Jason Melvin is a senior at Eaglecrest High School and is an eager participant in our Future Educator Pathway program. As a Reading Buddy for our online elementary students and as an assistant in an online elementary class, Jason has proven himself to be caring, insightful and eager to assist with anything to help his students. He is bright, friendly and proactive and his students adore him.

Jason is positive and proactive and is a natural-born teacher!!

Video Clip: <https://youtu.be/m1kswUh71GY>



Emma Tucker

Elementary Education

Emma Tucker is a junior at Grandview High School and is enrolled in Cherry Creek's Future Educator Pathway program. As a paraeducator in the district, Emma has worked in a classroom as well as with an online teacher, and with young online elementary students as a Reading Buddy. Emma's concurrent Enrollment assignments are always thorough and thoughtful, and the people who work with her rave about her positive attitude and bright personality. Emma is another one of our natural-born teachers.

Emma's positive attitude towards students is infectious. Additionally, her positivity has gained her much notoriety among her elementary-age online Reading Buddies. They routinely ask to see her more often online!

Video Clip: <https://youtu.be/LWuAK2KB1vU>

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Colorado Christian University



Stephanie Moore

Early Childhood Education

Stephanie is a Colorado native, currently living in Colorado Springs. At a very young age, Stephanie felt called to be a teacher. After marrying an air force sergeant, Stephanie worked for the Air Force Child and Youth Programs for 15 years. During this time she earned Civilian of the Year once and Above and Beyond four times. Stephanie has been on the Dean's list for three consecutive semesters in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement. Stephanie is an outstanding future educator in Colorado.

Stephanie has excelled in all of her coursework at CCU. She has the heart of a teacher. She has the natural ability to engage students and manage her classroom. She has a deep understanding of lesson planning and assessments as she implements her lessons. Her lesson objectives are based on Colorado and district standards and implemented with integrity. Stephanie provides feedback throughout her lessons and provides the next steps to allow students to move forward. She has demonstrated professionalism throughout her field experiences. Her interpersonal skills are strong and she collaborates well with fellow educators. We are blessed to have her as a future educator.



Christy Perry

Elementary Education

Christy is from Fort Collins, Colorado and graduated from Poudre High School. While at CCU, Christy was a Discipleship Group leader, tutored for Whiz Kids, was co-president of CCU Missions Club, participated on the CCU2theWorld trip to the Philippines and worked at RRCC School-Age Child Care and Rivendell School Of Northern Colorado. Christy did her student teaching as a 3rd-grade at Bear Creek K-8 in the Jefferson County School District. Christy wants to make a difference in the lives of students, to make them feel cared for and known as teachers did for her. Christy was chosen as the Outstanding Senior for the School of Education this year.

Christy was chosen because she is a strong student academically and has excelled throughout her field experience and student teaching. She grew up in poverty and knows that education is what can make a difference to change a life. Christy shines in the classroom as she increases both students' academic skills and their self-esteem. She wants to share how important education is with her students and has shown she can create a classroom that is engaging where all students can reach their highest potential.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/-jGqac-baLQ>

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Colorado Christian University



Jorrin Powell

Music Education

Jorrin is from Colorado Springs, Colorado and did her student teaching at Gold Camp K-8 school in Colorado Springs. Jorrin would like to work in an elementary school teaching general music, conduct a youth orchestra and teach private violin and viola lessons. Jorrin was the recording violinist in multiple composition majors' and production majors' and music engineering majors' senior projects and albums and played in a handful of worship arts majors' final performance projects. Jorrin was chosen as the Outstanding Senior and standard-bearer for the School of Music Class of 2021.

Jorrin was chosen for this honor because she has been very involved and excelled in music both on and off-campus since her freshman year. She was the Chamber Strings concert mistress (student leader of the ensemble) for all seven semesters she lived on campus, even back to freshman year. She was an inaugural member of the President's String Quartet and was the only member to remain consistently part of the ensemble through all seven semesters. She performed in the pits of two spring musicals, three Christmas concerts, three Christmas chapels, multiple President's Circle events, various faculty events, and in two School of Music Galas. Jorrin also plays at local churches around the Lakewood area. Jorrin will share her love of music with students.

Video clip: https://youtu.be/b4-CwOEe_Pg

"Education is improving the
lives of others and leaving your
community and the world better
than you found it."

– Marian Wright Edelman

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Colorado Mesa University



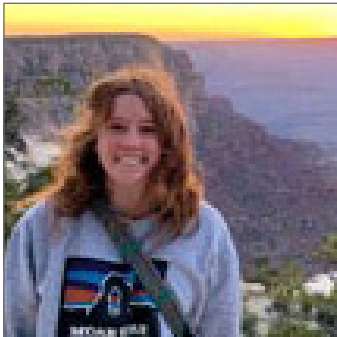
Deserae Gruntorad

Early Childhood Special Education

Deserae decided to pursue a career in education because of her dedication to boosting the confidence and morale in children. She has maintained an exceptional GPA throughout her university years and goes above and beyond with her efforts to reach and teach all children.

Deserae is passionate about providing a high-quality, engaging, and positive educational experience to every student. She believes in inclusive education and works hard to make sure every student has what he/she needs to be successful in her class.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/kzja-E4H3hk>



Sydney Prichard

Elementary

Sydney is a senior graduating from Colorado Mesa University with a degree in elementary education. She is from Monument, Colorado and attended Lewis Palmer High School before seeking higher education. Sydney has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. What started as a love for school supplies has become a love and passion for ensuring that all students have access to a quality and memorable education. Inspired by her teachers and family, Sydney is excited to have the chance to step into the lives of so many young students and instill in them a love for learning and enthusiasm and optimism with which they will pursue their education. She, with immense gratitude, has been accepted into the Memphis Teacher Residency, class of 2021, and will spend the next four years in Tennessee, earning a master's degree in urban education and teaching in inner-city schools. Sydney is eager to serve and can't wait to do so as an educator.

Sydney goes above and beyond to plan for and engage her 1st-grade students. She has been both an exemplary student in the Center for Teacher Education program and an outstanding student teacher. Sydney has developed a strong relationship with her students and makes a difference in their learning. Finally, Sydney works collaboratively with the other grade-level teachers and is a life-long learner.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Colorado State University



Tatianna Medina

Family and Consumer Sciences

Tatianna Medina was a leader throughout her undergraduate degree whether it was in the classroom, in her sorority, on-campus or within her job. As a first-generation, student of color, training to be a secondary Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, she immerses herself in all she does. Tatianna's passion for teaching developed in middle school and high school as she made strong connections with her FCS teacher as well as took on district and state leadership positions within the Family and Consumer Sciences CTE Student Organization - Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Because of her leadership training and abilities, Tatianna entered her student teaching with strong teaching skills. While student teaching, Tatianna lost her father to a tragic murder in the Denver area. As a tribute to her father, she took two weeks off from student teaching but returned to fulfill her dream to become a secondary FCS teacher. To be impacted by such an awful personal tragedy and to move forward with strength, perseverance and success during a semester of student teaching that was online, hybrid and face-to-face are the reasons Tatianna is deserving of recognition on the Future Educator Honor Roll.

Tatianna dealt with a personal tragedy and because of her commitment to teaching, passion and professionalism, she is completing her student teaching very successfully.

Colorado Teacher Cadet



Emma Borchers

Elementary Education

Emma Borchers is a senior at Arvada West High School. As a leader in the school, Emma has participated in Student Council all four years. She has invoked change for the better. Emma has also been a valuable part of the Teacher Cadet program. In her learning about becoming a teacher, Emma has participated in various field experiences in Jeffco schools during the pandemic. She is now more than ever determined to become a teacher who makes a difference in the lives of students.

Emma Borchers has a passion for students, learning and making a difference in the lives of children. She has exemplified integrity, dedication and work ethic. She is loyal, hardworking and compassionate.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Friends Teacher Preparation Program



Erik Keithley

Elementary Education

Erik is from a small town in northern Maryland named Monkton. After working in communications and marketing for several years at a K-8 school in Austin, he realized that his favorite part of his day was consistently his visits to classrooms. He decided to pursue his interest in classroom teaching and applied to the Friends TPP. Erik has won several educational marketing awards, had writing and photos published by publications such as National Geographic Education and has also recorded two folk/country albums.

We are continuously impressed by the work Erik can procure from his students. He is highly focused on engagement, creativity in the classroom and inclusion of all areas of development for his students. He is already quite skilled in his ability to integrate content areas and provide relevancy for his students regularly.



Katie Thompson

Elementary Education

Katie was born and raised in Boulder, Colorado and graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder with a B.A. in psychology. She often struggled with learning growing up, thinking that she wasn't good enough because she didn't always understand as quickly as her classmates. She realized that different children learn in different ways and that every child can be successful when they are provided the tools that work best for them. She's influenced by several incredible teachers. She decided to become a teacher because of her love for children and the desire to help children recognize their full potential.

Katie is highly dedicated to her students, as well as her own, growth. She reflects on how to make her lessons more engaging, interactive and relevant to her students' lives. She models persistence, commitment and the joy of learning both to her peers and her students.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Metropolitan State University of Denver

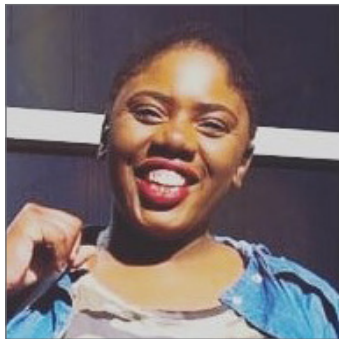


Aisha Bhuyia

Early Childhood Education AND Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Education

Aisha is passionate about giving back to the community and becoming the social justice and equity-focused teacher that all children need. She was an excellent student throughout her program and has worked through family challenges and hardships to achieve her degree. She has been a before and after-school teacher throughout her education and was a beloved addition to every classroom she worked with as a student. Her experience has crossed districts, and her student teaching in Aurora has made a huge impact on the 2nd-graders she works with.

Aisha has excelled throughout her college experience and is truly a shining example of effective culturally responsive teaching in her student teaching. The experience she brings to the classroom from years of before and after-school has been enriched by her coursework and makes her a confident and exceptional student-teacher. She will be an amazing teacher for every student.



Marilyn Boimbo

Elementary Education

As a Colorado Native, Marilyn has always wanted to become a teacher so she could positively impact students and be the teacher who changed the course of a student's life by being there in a way that teachers did not support her growing up. Having connections with the students so they feel comfortable and trust her is extremely important. A professional accomplishment she has made is learning from her mistakes to become a better teacher. A personal accomplishment is a promise she kept to herself to finish school and becoming a teacher even when things were difficult. Another achievement is the way she has maintained connections with the students during the Residency program. By doing so, she has been able to learn a great deal about her students and their backgrounds which helped her to find ways to help motivate them to keep going when learning was difficult. Marilyn's dedication to students and passion for teaching will make a difference for many years to come.

Marilyn was selected because she has made a tremendous amount of growth this year in her teaching and level of confidence. Even with all the struggles in the past year, she has stuck through it and is finishing strong. To add, she has shown a positive attitude and perseverance since the beginning of the school year which has made her stronger and even more dedicated than when she started Residency. We know she will take all the learning experiences from MSU Denver and make a difference in children's lives.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Metropolitan State University of Denver



Marissa Carolstrom

Early Childhood Education

Marissa has always loved working with young children. As a nanny, she got to watch twins develop over time and discovered a passion for the profession. She has excelled as a dedicated and hard-working student, and her experience ranges through several schools and districts. She is committed to equity and culturally responsive teaching and would love to someday teach overseas.

Marissa is a joyful teacher who wins the hearts of every child and teacher that has the good fortune to work with her. She is a serious student and a playful teacher and her commitment to the work of teaching and reaching every student is remarkable to see in action. She will be an exceptional teacher.



Cameron Leonard

Elementary Education

Cameron is a native of Arvada, Colorado. He decided to pursue education because he truly believes there is no more important or empowering field than education. He wants to make a positive difference in the world, and his strongest calling was to do this by empowering his students and providing love and support for every student he possibly can.

Cameron served with AmeriCorps as a Colorado Reading Corps tutor, where he worked with a total of 23 students who had READ Plans or IEPs. During this time Cameron helped 11 of those students reach grade level. During this year's virtual setting due to COVID, Cameron was able to keep students engaged while teaching virtually. This was no easy task! Cameron was able to acquire a myriad of tools and skills to still make virtual learning feel like learning, rather than a burden for his students. Cameron's humility precedes him; although his relationships with students and colleagues exemplify his dedication and sincerity. His ability to develop relationships with students while keeping their needs at the center of his teaching appears effortless but is always authentic.

**"Teachers make all other
professions possible."**

– Anonymous

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Metropolitan State University of Denver



Julia Vasquez

Elementary Education K-6

Julia is a Colorado native and is pursuing a career in education because she wants to help future generations make a positive impact on our world and give them the tools to live confident healthy lives. Julia does not know that before entering residency she was highly regarded by multiple faculty members and was often a recommended student for TA positions. This favorable mention was not just because she is responsible and organized but she is an extremely accomplished and knowledgeable teacher candidate as well.

We selected Julia not only because she is a hard worker and accomplished student but also a teacher candidate that is very reflective. She began residency being unnecessarily critical of herself but over time became more confident in her abilities and as the year progressed, she recognized that she has a natural talent for teaching! Some of her many strengths include relationships with students, using assessment to inform her instruction, strong communication skills and professionalism in the workplace. She was placed in a remote-only classroom for the year even though this was not what she preferred however, she took every opportunity to learn and teach and adapt to the different challenges in this setting. Her peers often go to her for advice, and she has many outstanding suggestions and resources to offer. She set a high standard for others, and she will be greatly missed.

“Every child deserves a champion –
an adult who will never give up on
them, who understands the power of
connection and insists that they become
the best that they can possibly be.”

– Rita Pierson

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC) Teacher Residency



Christina Flores

Secondary

Christina Flores is a human being for whom the question: “Where are you from?” has always posed a dilemma. She was born and raised in Aspen, Colorado--with maternal roots in the coastal city of Agua Dulce, Veracruz, Mexico and paternal roots in the cradle of maize, Tehuacán, Puebla, Mexico. She is a first-generation Mexicana-Americana; the second of four daughters; a seed tenderly cared for by two loving parents who consistently reminded her that, “tu eres una semilla fértil, y donde sea germinaras” (you are a fertile seed, and wherever you are you will germinate.) With great humility and gratitude, she found her way into education; a soil ripe with the potential to nourish and help to nourish, her seed, and the seed of every student she has the honor to partner with, into saplings of human understanding. She chose to become an educator, in the district that helped her germinate into the human she is today because she believes in the power of reminding students that they are a fertile seed, and wherever they are they will germinate. Only when we see the full potential of one another may we cultivate a garden that honors our education: academic, social, cultural, emotional, experiential for the bettering of the whole.

Christina’s perspectives, passion and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion will make us all better people.



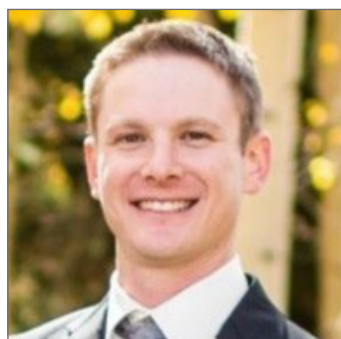
Mario de Leon

Elementary

Mario, who recently moved to Colorado from California, is a dedicated educator who is passionate about helping students think critically, expanding their understandings through thoughtful and productive struggles. Mario is a member of Profound Gentlemen and brings a critical lens of diversity, equity and inclusion to the classroom as he works to meet the needs of all learners. Mario is a leader, a learner and a passionate educator who will have a profound impact on students, families, and the community.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Regis University



Joshua Frenkel

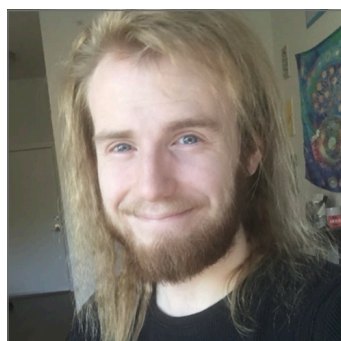
Secondary Business

Joshua Frenkel was born and raised in Colorado. After spending 10 years in promotions and marketing, he had enough with the office life and wanted to make a better impact on the world. He decided to combine his passion for business and youth to become a teacher. As a student in high school, he struggled in core subjects. It was not until taking Introduction to Business and Marketing that he fell in love with a subject. That feeling of finally finding your calling is the feeling he is looking to help invoke in his students. His classroom is full of energy, passion, and terrible dad jokes. He loves building relationships with his students and incorporating their interests into his projects. He is a strong believer in the power of positivity and building self-confidence in his classroom.

Joshua's progress in the Graduate Secondary program has been noteworthy and has caught the attention of both his instructors, university supervisor and mentor teacher during student teaching. His attention to detail demonstrated leadership within his courses, and dedication to inclusion have made him stand out as an exemplary future educator.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/8TcbFGMGRGI>

Relay Graduate School of Education



Benjamin Freer

Secondary Mathematics

Ben grew up in a small farm town in Virginia and received his B.S. in mathematics from Radford University. Through his undergraduate studies, Ben became more passionate about mathematics and wanted to combine his love for the content with his desire to fight systematic oppression. Ben currently serves as a Denver Math Fellow at North High School, and he is excited to become a lead teacher next year.

Ben is extremely dedicated to supporting his students, which can be seen through his strong relationships with students and families and his intentional and reflective lesson planning. Ben engages fully with his coursework and applies his learning consistently. He contributes insightful comments, asks thoughtful questions, and graciously receives feedback to improve his practice. Ben also demonstrates a strong commitment to culturally relevant and humanizing pedagogy, exuding care and advocating for equitable opportunities and outcomes.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

Relay Graduate School of Education



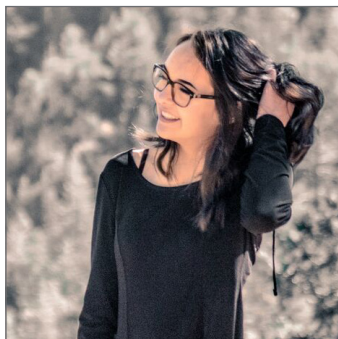
Coral Ruiz

Elementary Education

Coral currently resides in Denver, Colorado, but she calls El Paso, Texas and Phoenix, Arizona home since her families have settled in those cities. She studied earth and space sciences for her undergraduate degree at Arizona State University. After graduating, Coral secured her first position in Denver Public Schools. Coral fell in love with teaching and the ability she has as an educator to empower students to become strong members of their communities. In addition to empowering students, she considers it a great honor to be a woman of color that can represent students of color and affirm their positions in society. Outside of school, Coral values time with friends and family, community engagement (specifically surrounding social justice issues), art and lifelong education.

Coral is an outstanding educator and graduate student in our program. She has high expectations for herself and her students. She is consistently reflecting on her teaching practice with her graduate school instructors, peers, and colleagues. Coral's intentional and action planning in these reflections reflect her commitment to supporting each of her students.

Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design



Jasmin Kuykendall

K-12 Art Education

Jasmin is currently a senior in the art education program. She works to levels exceeding our expectations. As a talented artist and thoughtful educator, Jasmin is one of the best students in our program. She recently participated in the first annual Student Symposium where she won a presenter award for her research and presentation on diverse perspectives in painting. Jasmin is from Colorado Springs and will be returning there to complete her student teaching practicum this Fall of 2021.

She was unanimously selected as our top senior by the Art Education Department.

"What we instill in our children will be the foundation upon which they build their future."

– Steve Maraboli

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

University of Colorado



Elena DeAndrea

Secondary Science

It is with sincere pleasure that CU Teach, the secondary math and science licensure program in the School of Education at the University of Colorado nominate Elena DeAndrea for Colorado's Future Teacher Honor Roll. Elena has been an outstanding student, receiving her bachelor's degree in ecology and evolutionary biology at CU, while also getting licensed to teach secondary science. She has taken the challenge of becoming a professional in the teaching profession seriously. Elena's meticulous preparation is only matched by her enthusiasm and energy she brings day in and day out. Elena's mentor teachers consistently comment on her ability to engage students with the material. Elena is multilingual and her background includes extensive experience in diverse classrooms. She is comfortable working with students and colleagues, and her energy and enthusiasm liven up any classroom and she will be a great asset to any program.



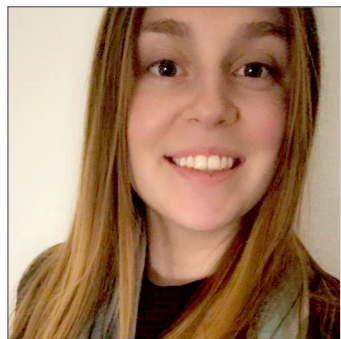
Brook Tingey

Secondary Science

It is with sincere pleasure that CU Teach, the secondary math and science licensure program in the School of Education at the University of Colorado nominate Brook Tingey for Colorado's Future Teacher Honor Roll. Brook is an excellent student, combining her strong work ethic, knowledge of content and enthusiasm for mentoring others. Brook is receiving her master's degree in curriculum and instruction while also getting certified to teach secondary science. Brook quickly adapted to the challenge of moving online to cope with the pandemic, and her mentor teachers have consistently commented on Brook's enthusiasm and ability to adapt to the new online learning environment so students could still enthusiastically engage with the material. Brook worked hard to provide necessary scaffolds, including specific reading strategies, note catchers and frequent use of formative assessment. The creative effort to engage students while still infusing meaningful learning of the content is an essential part of teaching. This attribute is tremendously important and illustrates Brook's strength in content knowledge coupled with her awareness of student learning. We highly endorse Brook and believe she will apply her capable talents to the utmost of her abilities.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

University of Colorado - Colorado Springs



Enya Brass

Elementary (K-6)

Enya Brass is from Colorado Springs, and she will complete a bachelor's degree in inclusive elementary education in May 2021. During high school, Enya volunteered as a tutor with a local foster organization. This experience showed her the direct impact that educators can have on a student's academic achievement and personal life. After high school, she worked as a camp counselor and developed a passion for working with children and helping them to "shine their light" in the classroom. This year, Enya has completed her student teaching as a teacher of record at Calhan Elementary, a small rural school east of Colorado Springs.

For her student teaching, she took on a very difficult class that had several students with attachment issues. She has earned their trust and they are growing socially, emotionally and academically. She strives to have a personal connection with each of her students. She has a firm, but caring demeanor with her class, and she is kind and respectful to her students, other teachers and staff. She consistently shows creativity and innovation by taking great ideas and tweaking them to best fit her students' needs. Enya is a natural teacher and seems to feel completely at home in front of her class.



Meghan Gould Woodring

Secondary Mathematics

Meghan is a summa cum laude graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, where she studied abroad in both Hungary and Trinidad & Tobago before earning both a B.S. in mathematics education and a B.A. in global studies. Before joining the Alternative Licensure Program at UCCS, she worked as a math interventionist in the Poudre School District and as an admissions coordinator at Colorado College. Now in her first year as a math teacher at Jenkins Middle School in Colorado Springs District 11, Meghan has cultivated a positive classroom environment for her 140+ 7th-graders in a variety of ways, both in-person and remotely. She credits her mother, a 6th-grade math teacher for more than 25 years, for inspiring her to make math concepts accessible for all students.

Meghan exemplifies a commitment to excellence in everything she does. Her academic work is thoughtful, articulate, and innovative. Her teammates appreciate her new ideas, constructive contributions, and collaborative spirit. Her principal describes her as "approachable, driven, and a champion for kids." Her university supervisor notes that she finds it easy to connect to a wide range of students, always with respect and kindness. In this most unusual school year, Meghan has demonstrated mastery of multiple technology platforms and applications, making it look easy to maintain student engagement. Among her fellow teacher candidates, she is a role model, not only for her technology expertise but also for her unflagging professionalism and positive outlook. A reflective practitioner, Meghan strives consistently to hold her students to high expectations and to cultivate those most transferrable of skills, problem-solving and teamwork.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

University of Colorado - Colorado Springs



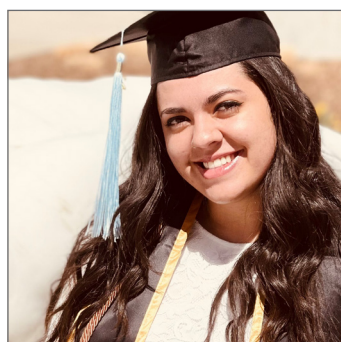
Anthony Krajewski

English Language Arts

A graduate of Texas Tech University, Anthony brings professional experience in higher education student affairs, event management, and community-focused non-profits to his work as an English language arts teacher at Power Technical Early College in Colorado Springs. He joined the PTEC staff in January 2020 as a permanent substitute, taking over first for metalworking classes, then teaching introduction to construction, and finally being assigned to close out the year as a sixth-grade math teacher right as schools closed due to the pandemic. The ability to pivot to remote instruction was also in Anthony's wheelhouse, as his previous responsibilities at Brookhaven College in Dallas and Colorado College in Colorado Springs had entailed significant curriculum development and online delivery. Now in his classroom, Anthony has developed rigorous and engaging units for his 9th- and 10th-grade ELA courses, adjusting flexibly to the ever-changing instructional formats necessitated by COVID-19 related quarantines and closures.

He works hard to bring his students' lived experiences into the classroom, framing them as assets that can help them think critically and act responsibly. Anthony's principal notes that she has received numerous compliments from parents regarding his "relentless efforts to be a source of support for any student in need." Early in the year, he initiated a daily after-school study hall in his classroom, welcoming any students in need of a quiet place to work, individual tutoring, or technology support. Anthony is an exemplary colleague as well, modeling appreciation of and value for cultural and academic diversity, professionalism, a positive and constructive attitude, initiative, humility, and a self-effacing sense of humor. He is an acknowledged leader in technology implementation and has helped not only his classmates but also his instructors with troubleshooting and innovative applications.

Video Clip: <https://youtu.be/tK7AQ9NGNB4>



Kayla Sanchez

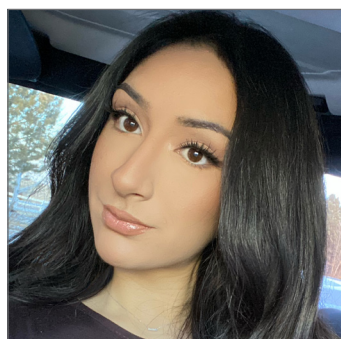
Elementary Education (K-6)

Kayla is from Arvada, Colorado, and she will earn a bachelor's degree in Inclusive Elementary Education this spring semester. She has had the desire to be a teacher "since kindergarten," and is completing her student teaching as a teacher in residence in Academy School District 20. Before student teaching, Kayla worked as a registered behavior technician where she worked with neurodiverse learners. Through this experience, she developed a passion for teaching all students and a desire to teach tolerance and kindness in her future classroom.

As an educator, Kayla takes time to know every student and is particularly drawn to helping and supporting those with special needs. She has worked closely with her mentor teacher, to develop multiple skills in the teaching of each of the core subject areas, as well as progress monitoring and virtual education platforms. She has been invaluable to the school, and her team of teachers, as she has supported all of them in implementing effective online education options when they have had to quarantine during the pandemic. Kayla is persistent, dedicated and professional. Her heart is in teaching and helping every child find success!

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

University of Colorado Denver



Karen Cardenas Hernandez

Elementary

Karen is a first-generation, bilingual, Latina future educator who has been a part of our NxtGEN preparation pathway at CU Denver. NxtGEN is a pathway designed to recruit talented diverse undergraduate candidates from the community who will ultimately return to teach in their community. Karen is such a strong example of an equity-minded educator who places emerging bilinguals at the forefront of her teaching. She has been an incredibly strong academic student as well as a para-educator intern and teacher resident in Denver Public Schools. She is highly collaborative in her work with her school team and with her peers, always offering to help support, share resources and taking on a leadership role in numerous spaces. We are so proud of Karen as she will be graduating in May and has already secured a 5th-grade teaching position at Trevista at Horrace Mann Elementary School in DPS, the same school she has been serving as a teacher resident.



Derrick Nevarrez

Secondary Math

Derrick Nevarrez is a secondary math candidate like no other. He loves his content, but more importantly, he loves his students and wants to help create change in the Denver community he grew up in. He has been serving as a teacher resident at Denver Center for International Studies in DPS and has engaged far beyond his role as an intern this academic year. With an understanding of the broader ramifications for students' success or failure in math as a gateway, he was determined that every lesson he taught would provide multiple entry points and creative scaffolded activities to reach every student. While he brought deep knowledge of content as well as skills for teaching, his commitment extended far beyond the classroom. He accepted every extra opportunity to learn and contribute, from joining the equity team to co-teaching Advisory class to tutoring, to developing lessons and curriculum.

Derrick's enthusiasm, compassion and joy are contagious, explicit and tangible. He brings unwavering patience, creativity, clear structures and belief in his students' academic ability to the classroom. He was not only responsive but naturally embracing their academic, emotional, social and language needs as well as cultural and familial backgrounds. Derrick has accepted a teaching position for next year as a 7th- and 8th-grade math teacher at Grant Ranch ECE-8 in DPS.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

University of Denver



Katie Cannon

Special Education (K-12)

As a young child, Katie felt safest when she was at school. She had trusted adults that saw her, supported her, and pushed her to be the best human being she could be. Without a doubt, this influenced my decision to change careers from non-profit management to teaching. Her own experience as a first-generation American, first-generation high school graduate, an English language learner and a person with disability fuels her passion to seek to understand students and families and to meet them where they are. She firmly believes that diversity makes our community richer and that it is each of our responsibility to create an equitable and welcoming environment for all. She attained her bachelor of arts in anthropology with minors in Chinese and Arabic from Northern Arizona University, a masters of public administration in non-profit management from the University of Colorado and is currently pursuing a masters of arts in curriculum and Instruction at the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver. In her free time, you can find her rock climbing, enjoying the outdoors and volunteering with animal welfare organizations.

Katie Cannon works at Denver Green School. Katie holds high academic expectations for her students, listens to students and has implemented a simple but highly effective way of using a check-off list during lessons—to show students their progress, and seamlessly integrates SEL goals and learning into lessons. Katie uses feedback as a springboard to develop her new approaches—basing her thinking on assessment data including close observation of her students.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

University of Denver



Lul Yusuf

Elementary Education

Lul attained a B.S. in environmental science from the University of Maryland and is currently completing her elementary teacher's certification and M.A. in curriculum and instruction at the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver. Lul believes that schools should be so much more than teaching the basics. She shares a love of diversity and has a deep respect for children learning a second language. Lul is a Kenyan native raising two wonderful kids (Noor who is six and Yusuf is four) with a very patient husband. Lul is completing her yearlong clinical experience in a 4th-grade class at the Denver Green School, where she has been hired to teach in the 2021-22 school year with a community that shares her enthusiasm for stewardship and sustainability. When she is not at school, she is busy chasing her two boys around, and traveling around the world with them, trying to expose them to different people, cultures and languages!

Lul has a strong grasp of important pedagogical concepts like backward planning, the assessment cycle, and culturally responsive teaching. Lul is committed to the academic betterment of all children. She is also talented academically, and she brought what she learned in her coursework into her instruction immediately. Lul is fortunate to train alongside highly effective Mentor Teachers (Julie Cruz and Travis Ostrom). She quickly incorporated many best practices into her teaching. For example, she has very high expectations for student achievement, promotes academic language and scaffolds her instruction to ensure every student succeeds.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/W7wSRq4THh4>

University of Northern Colorado



Erin Hittle

Elementary Education, MAT

Erin was born and raised in New Orleans. She moved to Colorado to attend CSU where she completed her bachelor's degree in human development and family studies. She enjoys working and helping people. After graduating, she worked with various populations in an assortment of settings. She realized that education was an ideal fit for after volunteering with children through CASA. Through this experience, she discovered the positive influence that one caring, consistent adult can have on a child. Now, she is looking forward to a long career of helping students see their strengths and reach their potential.

Erin is an incredibly professional and knowledgeable teacher. She is responsive to her students' needs and will no doubt be a source of inspiration to her future students.

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

University of Northern Colorado



Holly Minor

Social Studies

Holly is from Breckenridge, Colorado. After her graduation in May, she will be a social studies teacher. Her family is an amazing support system and encourages her to pursue this career path. She would not be here today without her mom and sister, both of which are teachers, who inspired her to chase this path and become the best educator that she can be. She also credits her Nana, with her first history lesson, which made her fall in love with the craft.

Holly is a creative, joyful, driven, focused, and dedicated educator. We are impressed with the masterful teaching that comes out of this young teacher. Holly makes content come to life through activity and student-centered learning.

Video clip: <https://youtu.be/byw6ZefZvx8>



Devon Reese

Elementary Education with CLD Endorsement

Devon has worked with students and families in schools for the past five years. He was a business major and switched majors when he started to work in a school. He is a born leader and team player and a very dedicated learner. On the first day of class a year ago, he walked around the classroom and shared his cell phone number with classmates and offered support if people needed help with the academic work. He is an endearing and funny person!

Devon is talented and level-headed. He will be a strong advocate for students and families and an education leader for many years!

Video clip: - <https://youtu.be/uDSTz3EEtSc>

2021 Future Educator Honor Roll

West Central Alternative Licensure Program



Melissa Demuth

Art

Melissa was an early childhood teacher, but when the chance arrived to teach art to K-12, she jumped at the chance. She is a wife and mother of two children aged 12 and 10 and mom to MANY animals too. She is doing such an incredible job of teaching art in creative ways to 13 different age levels.

Melissa is tenacious. She works very hard to provide thoughtful, creative art lessons to her students. Kids drive the creative process. She allows them space to problem solve, dream, create using so many different mediums. As a lead teacher for an ATL program, I have worked with over 60 teachers in the last decade. Melissa stands out as an exceptional teacher. She is the very reason we have ATL programs. She is self-directed, independent, timely, and very hard working. She inspires her students, but also her colleagues to be creative.

Western Colorado University

Michael Boeke

Music

Mike teaches students music education at Red Hill Elementary in Gypsum. Mike was raised as an Iowa farm boy but is proud to be a Colorado transplant. He has been sharing his passion for the performing arts for many years and is excited to continue this adventure. Above it all, Mike is a husband and a father of three. Any personal success starts with the support of his wife, Tammi and their children, Ryan, Josh, and Sammi. Mike is honored and humbled by the nomination for the Future Educator Honor Roll.



Ashlyn Hugill

Elementary

Studying her bachelor of arts in recreation and outdoor education at Western Colorado University, Ashlyn found a true passion for teaching others and becoming a life-long learner herself. Ashlyn is originally from Colorado Springs and has spent much of her life on the Western Slope and in Bend, Oregon. While she currently teaches 1st-grade in Denver with Cherry Creek School District, you can also find her spending time hiking, mountain biking, snowboarding and kayaking around the great outdoors. She lives for the 'aha' moments of her students and plans to chase her career goals in educational administration.



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